

Sinclair Broadcast Group's decision to air a blatantly partisan "documentary" less than 2 weeks before the election highlights the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation. Sinclair's decision is even more outrageous in light of their refusal to broadcast a Nightline edition that made no attacks, but simply listed names of those killed in Iraq.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.